

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OREP, SF, US (CODEL DIGGS)

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIVE DIGGS' REMARKS AT AAI CONFERENCE

1. REPRESENTATIVE DIGGS SPOKE TO THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE AAI CONFERENCE IN MASERU AND DELIVERED THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS CONCERNING HIS OBSERVATIONS DURING RECENT TRAVELS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

2. MR. DIGGS OPENED BY STATING HE WANTED TO SPEAK OF HIS TRAVELS IN AFRICA DURING THE PAST WEEKS, POINTING OUT HE ALSO HAD STOPPED IN GENEVA AND HAD TALKED WITH ALL PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE RHODESIAN TALKS. IN GENEVA, HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE GENERAL SUSPICION OF IAN SMITH AS AN UNTRUSTWORTHY PERSON. HE STATED HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE QUALITY OF THE BLACK MAJORITY REPRESENTATIVES THERE AND HE SPOKE OF THEIR DETERMINATION TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL AND THE LACK OF ANY INFERIORITY COMPLEX AMONG THEM IN FACING THE BRITISH AND WHITE RHODESIAN PARTIES. MR. DIGGS CALLED SMITH AN AVOWED RACIST AND HIS AIM IS ONLY TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE WHITE MINORITY IN RHODESIA. HE THEN OPINED IT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN CONTINUOUS PRESSURE ON SMITH TO KEEP HIM HONEST. U.S. LEVERAGE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IS VITAL IN MAINTAINING THE PRESSURE ON SMITH. HE SPOKE ALSO OF THE PRESSURE BROUGHT ON SMITH BY THE LIBERATION FORCES. WITH REGARD TO THE BRITISH ROLE, MR. DIGGS SAID IT IS WEAKENED BY CONDITIONS AT HOME - THE ECONOMIC DETERIORATION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S ONE VOTE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. HE OBSERVED THAT THE BRITISH ROLE IS ALSO WEAKENED TO SOME EXTENT BY "KITH AND KIN" CONSIDERATIONS.

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3. IN ANGOLA MR. DIGGS EXPLAINED THERE IS TROUBLE ON THREE SIDES: THE ZAIREAN BORDER, NAMIBIA BORDER AND UNITA - CONTROLLED AREAS, AND CABINDA. MR. DIGGS POSED THE RHETORICAL QUESTION "WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF SUPPORT FOR THESE ELEMENTS THAT CONTINUE TO OPPOSE

THE GOVERNMENT FORCES IN ANGOLA?" HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS THERE SHOULD BE A CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST TO SEND AN INVESTIGATIVE MISSION TO LOOK INTO THE SOURCE OF SUPPLY FOR THE DISSIDENTS.

4. MR. DIGGS DESCRIBED SOME OF THE PROBLEMS FACED BY THE MPLA IN ANGOLA, STATING THAT OF 25,000 VEHICLES BEFORE INDEPENDENCE, ONLY 5,000 REMAINED. HE POINTED OUT THE CUBAN FORCES ARE TRYING TO FILL THE VOID CREATED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE PORTUGUESE, A VOID WHICH HE ATTRIBUTED TO THE "COLONIAL POLICY OF BANTU EDUCATION" WHICH HAD LEFT 85 PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE ILLITERATE.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE CUBAN FORCES, MR. DIGGS MAINTAINED THAT THEY ARE NOT AN ARMY OF OCCUPATION. HE ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW 10,000 TROOPS COULD OCCUPY A COUNTRY WHICH 50,000 PORTUGUESE TROOPS HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO BRING TO SUBMISSION.

6. MR. DIGGS SAID THAT U.S. RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA COULD NORMALIZE WITHIN 6 MONTHS. HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF A U.S. OIL COMPANY WHICH PROVIDED 85 PERCENT OF THE MPLA GOVERNMENT REVENUE. FURTHER HE HAD TALKED WITH THE GULF OIL PEOPLE IN ANGOLA AND THEY ARE MOST SATISFIED WITH THEIR OPERATION THERE. THEY FEEL NO THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF THEIR INVESTMENTS THERE.

7. MR. DIGGS THEN TURNED TO HIS VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID HE HAD ASKED TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND OTHER RELEVANT MINISTRIES. MR. VORSTER, ACCORDING TO MR. DIGGS, "DID NOT FIND IT CONVENIENT TO MEET WITH US". INSTEAD HE HAD MET WITH THE MINISTERS OF INFORMATION AND INTERIOR. IN ADDITION HE HAD ASKED TO MEET WITH DR. HERTZOG (RIGHT WING, NATIONALIST PARTY) WHOM HE COMPARED TO THE "LATE LEADER OF THE AMERICAN NAZI PARTY". THE MINISTER OF SPORTS HAD BEEN AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH MR. DIGGS AND HIS PARTY BUT HE EXPLAINED HE CHOSE NOT TO BE SIDE-TRACKED ON A SUBJECT OF MINOR IMPORTANCE.

8. MR. DIGGS STATED HE VISITED SOWETO WHERE HE SAW THOUSANDS OF BLACK COMMUTERS WAITING TO BOARD TRAINS FOR WORK IN JOHANNESBURG. HE CALLED HIS VISIT INSTRUCTIVE. IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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THE PRESSURES PLACED ON BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA, ACCORDING TO MR. DIGGS, AND HE COMPARED THEM TO AN OLD MOVIE IN THEIR LIKENESS TO CONDITIONS ONCE EXTANT IN THE U.S. HE WAS ALSO IMPRESSED WITH THE POWERLESSNESS OF PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA TO DO ANYTHING EFFECTIVE TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE, EXCLAIMING THAT EVEN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY SEEMED POWERLESS.

9. MR. DIGGS SAID HE HAD MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. CORPORATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA - GM, ELI LILLY, GE, WESTINGHOUSE, AND OTHERS. HE AND HIS PARTY CONCEDED THAT THE CORPORATIONS HAD MADE SOME EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR BLACK EMPLOYEES BUT HE INSISTED THEY HAD NOT GOTTEN DOWN TO FUNDAMENTALS. HE POINTED OUT

IT WAS THE CLAIM OF THE CORPORATION REPRESENTATIVES THAT THEY HAD BEEN TRYING TO FIND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL TO ASSUME MORE RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS BUT MR. DIGGS CONSIDERED THIS CLAIM QUESTIONABLE. HE HAD SUGGESTED TO THEM BRINGING IN AMERICAN BLACKS IF IT WAS REALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO FIND QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AMONG THE MILLIONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS.

10. MR. DIGGS OPINED THAT THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON THAT THE U.S. POSSESSES OTHER THAN MILITARY FORCE, IS ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. HE FELT THESE SANCTIONS NEED TO BE USED, AND USED CREATIVELY, TO BRING ABOUT DESIRED CHANGES.

11. MR. DIGGS THEN TURNED TO HIS TRIP TO NAMIBIA, STATING HE HAD TALKED WITH THE TURNHALLE REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDING SWAPO AT ITS HEADQUARTERS IN WINDHOEK. HE HAD ALSO TALKED WITH THE GERMAN COMMUNITY, CHURCH LEADERS AND OTHERS. THERE IS MORE INTERCOURSE BETWEEN BLACKS AND WHITES IN SOUTHWEST AFRICA THAN IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND HE HAS THE FEELING THAT THE REAL PUPPETS IN THE TURNHALLE ARE THE WHITES WHO ARE THE PUPPETS OF SOUTH AFRICA. THESE PEOPLE ALLOW THEIR SENTIMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA TO INTERFERE WITH THEIR NATIONALISM. IN THIS CONNECTION HE MENTIONED THAT AFTER THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD MADE CLEAR THAT WALVIS BAY IS NOT NEGOTIABLE, SWA WHITES NOW OFTEN SUPPORT THIS ASSERTION. SOME BLACKS, HE SAID, ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE TURNHALLE SIMPLY BECAUSE THEY FEEL THIS IS ALL THEY HAVE GOING FOR THEM AND WANT TO SEE WHAT IS IN IT FOR THEM. HE INSISTED THAT THE EXCLUSION OF SWAPO UNDERMINES THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE. TURNHALLE, IN FACT, HE CONCLUDED, IS TIED TO PRETORIA.

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12. MR. DIGGS SAID THERE IS NO DENYING THE REAL ENEMY IS PRETORIA. PRETORIA IS BEHIND SALISBURY AND BEHIND WINDHOEK AND THIS WILL NOT CHANGE UNTIL WE TAKE OFF THE STRIPED TROUSERS AND LOOK TO THE MEANS AVAILABLE TO US TO BRING PRESSURE ON PRETORIA. WE SHOULD PUSH THE HARD LINE TO THE MAXIMUM AS DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES HAVE PRODUCED NEGATIVE RESULTS.

13. MR. DIGGS STATED THAT, FAR FROM BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON SOUTH AFRICA, THE U.S. PROVIDES SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT. HE CITED THE EXAMPLE OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND IN THIS CONNECTION QUOTED FROM VISA ISSUANCE STATISTICS WHICH HE HAD OBTAINED. HE SAID THAT DURING THE FIRST 6 MONTHS OF 1976, 12,944 NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS HAD BEEN ISSUED BY AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND THAT ONLY 19 VISAS HAD BEEN REFUSED. HE ASSERTED THAT MORE VISAS THAN THAT HAD BEEN REFUSED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS FOR PEOPLE ATTENDING THE AAI CONFERENCE ALONE. MR. DIGGS EMPHASIZED 552 VISAS AMONG THE NIV'S ISSUED WERE GIVEN TO OFFICIALS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATS AND THEIR FAMILIES. HE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS PLENTY OF ROOM WITH RESPECT TO THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS ALONE FOR THE USG TO BRING PRESSURE TO

BEAR ON SOUTH AFRICA.
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